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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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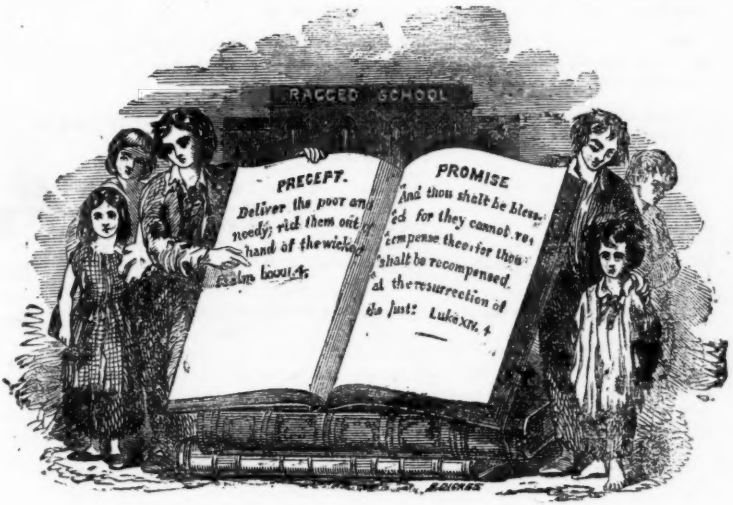

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.
JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a parcel of books, magazines, &c., from Miss Buffett; a box of clothing and waste paper from Mrs. Ditmas; a parcel of clothing from Mrs. Reade; a bundle of shirts and blouses from Mrs. McAll; and a chest of clothing, &c., from Miss Lingwood.

Parcels of Left-off Wearing Apparel, for distribution to the Children, and for our Industrial Classes, also Books or Magazines for forming School Libraries, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Parcels of waste paper, old magazines, reports, &c., &c., can be made good use of for the benefit of the Society, and will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

ERRATUM IN LAST MONTH'S MAGAZINE.—For "the *Dove Row Schools* the sum £6 7s. 6d., being proceeds of fancy work, by Mrs. Taylor and friends at Bradford-on-Avon," read "We are requested to acknowledge for the *Cudworth and North Street Schools*, with the thanks of the Committee, the sum of £10 12s. 5d., collected by Mrs. Taylor and Miss Spackman from friends at Melksham, Holt, and Bradford-on-Avon."

EDUCATION.—The **MISSES GENT** beg to inform their friends that they have Vacancies for a few Young Ladies as Boarders on moderate terms. Their School is pleasantly situated near Kennington Park. Pupils committed to their care receive every attention and home comfort. References given and required. The Quarter will begin July 11th, 1865.—88, Camberwell New Road, S.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HELP.

BROOK STREET REFUGE & RAGGED SCHOOLS.

This Institution was established in 1843, in Henry Passage, Hampstead Road, in the midst of a densely-pnpulated, but poor, neighbourhood, and the Committee earnestly appeal for more funds to enable them to continue the following operations, viz.: Sunday and Weekday and Night Ragged Schools, Service for Adults, Free Weekly Lectures, Mothers' Meetings, Penny Bank, Loan Libraries, &c., and an Industrial Refuge for thirty-four destitute boys.

Donations for this purpose will be thankfully received by Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, or by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. E. WAY, 29, Wigmore Street, W.

They cannot go without help!

RAGGED SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EXCURSION.

BLUEGATE FIELDS, SHADWELL, E.

It is proposed to give about two hundred and sixty of the *elder* destitute children belonging to these Schools an Excursion to GREENWICH PARK on Wednesday, July 26th. They will be provided with a plain substantial dinner, a good tea, buns, fruit, &c. A *special* steam-boat will leave the Thames Tunnel Pier at 10 a.m. precisely, returning from Greenwich at 7.30. The Teachers are making great efforts to raise funds for this purpose. Who then will contribute towards this truly charitable object, so that these "poor outcasts" may for a few hours exchange their squalid homes for healthful recreation amid brighter scenes? Unless help come from a sympathizing public, these "destitute ones" *must* be deprived of their anxiously-expected Treat.

Contributions will be most thankfully received by W. H. HATCHARD, *Hon. Sec.*, No. 7, Albion Terrace, Commercial Road, E.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others [illegible] commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts [illegible] Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Se[illegible] on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

"EXCELSIOR" "EXCELSIOR"

FAMILY SEWING AND EMBROIDERING MACHINE

Is easy to operate, simple to learn, quiet in action, and not liable to derangement. It will TUCK, HEM, FELL, GATHER, CORD, QUILT, BRAID, and EMBROIDER, sew from two ordinary reels, and the seam, if cut at every inch, will not rip. Price, from £6 6s.

The New STAR PATENT IMPROVED DOUBLE ACTION ARM MACHINE for Bootmakers and Manufacturers generally. Complete, £10 10s.

WHIGHT and MANN, 143, Holborn Bars, London.

MANUFACTORY: GIPPING WORKS, IPSWICH.

FRIENDLESS AND FALLEN.

LONDON FEMALE PREVENTIVE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.

PRESIDENT, REV. CANON DALE.

OUT OF TOWN.

"The season of the year has now arrived when thousands of those on whom Providence has bestowed her blessings in abundance will be seeking rest and recreation amidst the beauties of nature; either in our own beloved land, on the continent of Europe, or elsewhere. May the Divine protection and blessing attend all such, and bring them home again in due time, the better fitted to discharge the various duties of life! But as usual, the poor and wretched will be left behind, in many instances with nothing more than an increase of misery. The Secretary of this Institution has been often greatly tried during the autumn months. The funds fall off, while the applicants are equally numerous, and cases of such peculiarity as to make rejection very painful, even to the person on whom the task devolves; but how much more on the poor outcast herself! *This, however, may to a very great extent be averted by ladies and gentlemen sending a contribution before leaving town.*

1,600 poor creatures have been received since September, 1857.

The Committee authorize the immediate admission of suitable cases at all times, room and funds permitting.

£10 is the average cost of each case for support, clothing, &c., during the whole period of probation.

Contributions in Post-office Orders, Cheques, &c., will be thankfully received by
Messrs. BOSANQUET & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.
FRANCIS NICHOLLS, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.
Mr. E. W. THOMAS, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, N.W.

NICHOL STREET

Ragged Schools, Missions, and Working Men's Club,

BETHNAL GREEN.

These schools, established in 1843, are situated in one of the most destitute districts of London. Commencing with one room, the work steadily grew, until the one became sixteen; but then dilapidations became so serious, that in very self defence they had to be given up. Freehold land close by, amply sufficient, was fortunately obtained by the Committee, at a cost of £850, and a portion of the land was covered with plain school buildings, which were opened free of debt. But from the dense population of the district, and the number of the children (about 1,200) crowding into the schools, still further accommodation is absolutely necessary.

But by these efforts, and by raising about £300 a year for the support of the School and Mission, the Committee and friends of the school, who mostly live three miles distant from the scene of their work, and have no special connection with the neighbourhood, have done what they can, and are now compelled to appeal to others for the assistance necessary to complete their plans by covering the vacant piece of land in their possession.

In this the Committee have the cordial approval and assistance of Lord Shaftesbury and the Rector of Bethnal Green.

One thousand pounds is still wanted, and towards this donations will be thankfully received by Mr. GENT, Secretary Ragged School Union; or by

HENRY SPICER, Jun.,
19, New Bridge Street, E.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

NEW BUILDINGS FOR THE FIELD LANE REFUGES AND SCHOOLS.

How different the locality of the Field Lane district of the present day, compared with the same locality as it existed twenty years since! Nothing less than the pen of a Charles Dickens, and the pencil of a George Cruikshank, could faithfully depict the inhabitants of that time, and the hovels in which they existed, for we can scarcely say they lived. They seemed at first sight as though they belonged to another planet, so dissimilar were they from the ordinary wayfarers of our every-day world. There was an indefinable something about their visages that was painfully repellent to a stranger; it was not that idiotic vacancy—that unmarked expression which premature labour fixes on the features of a factory drudge; nor that scared and timorous mien assumed by those who labour "from childhood to the grave" in coal mines, when occasionally introduced to the upper regions of daylight and sunshine: no, it had a peculiar characteristic of its own—foggy, cadaverous, unearthly—a vacant apathy of countenance, an almost entire absence of the usual traits of humanity; so wan, so lustreless a glance of the eye, such restless gestures, such incomprehensible *patois* issued from their lips: thin, ragged, tattered, and unfitted garments, hung so loosely about their forms: many of them existed apparently without a hope of better things than then surrounded them.

By that people "Meliora" was never sung. Their elysium and temple was the flaunting gin-palace, in which they found seductive happiness, and there only they worshipped.

The condition of the savage and the wild Indian, schooled in no other volume than that of nature, seemed more refined than that of the denizens of Field Lane as it was. For with the Indian there is a wild halo of poetry in his dreams of the Great Spirit—a patriotic ardour in the traditions of his fathers and the war-songs of his tribe; but the moral outcast of society to which we refer, was pent within narrow confines of filth and degradation; he imbibed from his earliest years a train of the most horrid associations; his young ideas were fed on the coarsest ribaldry; execrations were his first perceptions;

the maternal application of the gin-bottle stifled his infant cries for food; he asked for bread, and they gave him a serpent. His parents vegetated on the precarious trade of plunder; within their narrow domicile was acted the oft-told tale of violence, the law of might against right, the strong against the weak, till the police hurried off their prisoner from his den of guilt to the station-house, and hence, in due course, to penal servitude. That was a dark picture, and our description of it is fearfully true. We were an eye-witness of much we now write from memory, and therefore speak what we know.

In the midst of such a district, and for the benefit of such a people, was one of our earliest Ragged School efforts, that has deservedly obtained a world-wide reputation, under the designation of the FIELD LANE RAGGED SCHOOL. Its beginning was not unlike the little rippling stream that forms the remotest part of the mighty river, insignificantly small at first, but by constant addition in its course it becomes deep and broad, and a medium of health and wealth. The full breadth and depth of the Field Lane Institution has not yet, we believe, been fully attained. It has of late years been extending its proportions, but now, it is assumed, it will not only largely add to those proportions, but establish them on a firmer basis than hitherto it has been practicable. The operations have been carried on in two large buildings some little distance from each other, one held on a short lease, and the other by an agreement subject to constantly increasing rent, and neither sufficiently large and commodious for the work required to be done in them. Both these buildings are required for city improvements, widening streets, or railway extension, and must therefore be shortly vacated. The getting of premises ready to hand has proved an impossibilty, and the securing a site on which to build was almost as difficult. A freehold plot, however, has been obtained, at a cost of £7,000, and has been paid for, which, although a large sum, is a good investment, as it could afterwards have been sold at a profit of £2,000. The site is a little westward of the Middlesex Session House, and has two frontages, one on Saffron Hill and the other in Vine Street, which has been renamed Hatton Wall. The building will consist of three floors, and will cost £10,000. The Committee, in relation to this sum, say, that "so vast an undertaking would fill them with great anxiety, but for the fact that, under the direction of a skilful architect, they have studied to employ the strictest economy consistent with the nature of the work itself, and they cheerfully look to the public at large for that substantial support, which has never yet been made in vain, while they cast their care upon Him

in whose name alone they have undertaken the work, and most fervently do they hope that payment may be made for the whole building on the day of its completion." The foundation-stone was laid by Lord Shaftesbury, in the presence of a large number of the friends and supporters of the Institution. It bears the inscription, "This stone was laid by the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., on June 13, 1865." A handsome silver trowel, a mahogany mallet, and plumb-line square, were used in the formal fixing of the stone. The following address was read by the Hon. Secretary on the occasion:—

A long intercourse with us in our capacity of friends and supporters of the Field Lane Ragged School and Night Refuges for the Homeless, needs not any introductory preface on such an occasion as this, which has specially called us together. It is, nevertheless, a pleasure, my Lord, to take a slight retrospect of the past to recall to our recollection the incipient energy of the missionary, and a few teachers who found themselves in the establishment of the first ragged school, surrounded with unexpected difficulties and obstacles which would have scared far bolder hearts, and damped an apparently more promising cause. It is gratifying to trace, as it were, step by step, the progress of these efforts, and to watch the corresponding influences of charity, uniting their blessed impulse in the minds of so many sympathizing and benevolent fellow-helpers in this good work, to centralize in one focus the rays of hope with the sometimes overshadowing clouds of despair that have accompanied this great object of mercy in its onward course of usefulness, and in the strong light of its reality to remember the day and the hour which first brought your Lordship to us as our distinguished friend and supporter.

Twenty-three years ago the London City Mission planned the foundation of a special area for missionary purposes on Saffron Hill, and denominated it "The Field Lane District." In this new and untried sphere of religious enterprise was sowed, as it were, the seed of at best a problematical harvest. On the 7th of November, 1841, the Field Lane Ragged School was opened with forty-seven boys and girls of various ages, culled from the lowest grades of society. The only accommodation that could be afforded was the floor of the room in which they were assembled. But this sufficed for the first incast of the grain of mustard-seed. The soil, though poor, was not barren. Diligent were the teachers in their beneficent work of mercy towards the hitherto friendless and outcast; and the object being sanctified by Divine influence, soon revealed its precious fruits of increase.

From the ground-floor of one house they emigrated to a like meagre sanctuary—a ground-floor in White's Yard, where a systematic opposition and annoyance were in vain employed to arrest the good work once begun. Circumstances again occurred to interrupt the progress of the school, and the work was transplanted to a first-floor in Field Lane, where the untiring and undaunted little band of teachers devotedly continued their labours.

Other friends soon recognised the banner of religious zeal floating among the more attractive standard of educational progress, and, despite the scoffs and jeers of ignorant prejudice, the violence of mob and party rabbles, the patrons of vice and infamy, the tiny seed germinated and grew.

The next locality was found in 65, West Street, where the small rooms, and subsequently the addition of two more, formed an arena in which the utility of Ragged Schools was to be more practically and beneficially tested. Here, it may be said, was

the first visible development of God's blessing on the Field Lane Ragged Schools. The organization of the system was then moulded into a more practical and efficacious character.

Separate schools for boys and girls were established. Methodical teachers were appointed, and all the auxiliaries for the work of education were regularly enlisted in the good cause. But, alas! we had miscalculated our strength. The voluntary services of our staff were insufficient for the growing emergencies of our undertaking, the rent was accumulating to an extent which seemed to defy a dependence on the generosity of our early friends, and other incidental difficulties were looming in the not far distant horizon of our prospects. But He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb revealed an unexpected agency whereby funds would be raised, not only sufficient for our then present need, but to be the nucleus of perpetual advancement.

An advertisement in the *Times* brought succour from all parts of the kingdom, and among the tributary offerings which flowed through the channels of English charity, was the spontaneous devotedness of the Earl of Shaftesbury (then Lord Ashley) to be our visible patron and leader. The bark was fairly launched, and our hopes of success were kindled by the sympathies of our countrymen and countrywomen. From this period Ragged Schools gradually grew in public estimation. Every year some new work was grafted upon it, till its educational and ameliorative efforts were brought to bear upon the ignorance and necessities of the poor. In the fore front of the friends and advocates of the institution must be ever ranked the correspondent of the *Times;* and the language of his sentiments, engrossed in the columns of the journal in his memorable letter, entitled "OUR HOMELESS POOR," opened the very flood-gates of benevolence, to let in a torrent of pecuniary aid; and to its continued advocacy the institution owes a lasting debt of gratitude.

The prayer of a faithful few had been answered, and the King of kings vouchsafed an abundant blessing on our efforts. Since the opening of this institution

955 children have been instructed in the Infant Schools.
8,953 in the Day School, 3,000 of whom have been placed in situations.
3,850 instructed in the Evening School.
9,000 in the Refuge Evening Classes.
3,930 in the Tailoring and Shoemaking Classes.
812 girls in the Night School.
2,100 girls in the Industrial Classes.
670 taught to sew in the Mothers' Classes.
8,700 garments have been made by the children for the Clothing Society.
900 prizes given to children remaining in places over 12 months.
3,000 depositors in the Penny Bank.
111,832 men, boys, and women have passed through the Refuges,
10,747 of whom have been provided with situations, or work.

A multitude of these have attended the Bible School and the Ragged Church.

Years have now rolled since the work began, my Lord, and with the current of time your own social station has undergone a nominal change among the titles and distinctions of the great ones of the earth. But we are proud—yea, the whole Christian community of your native land is proud, to know that with the growth of years is the growth of your wisdom, your benevolence, and your religious connections. The same divine grace which entered the heart of young Lord Ashley, and taught him to know and to respect the institutions which charity has raised up for the welfare of the poor, the afflicted, and the helpless, to observe the germinating spirit of a true religion, and to lend his name and personal influence to all that could ennoble man in his intellectual and responsible character in life, manifested the strength of his love when Lord

Ashley, by the lot of inheritance, ascended a higher grade of distinction, and became a permanent legislator in our Senate. The motto which your Lordship's good example has set before every class in the kingdom has done much for the spread of education, and support of various religious and benevolent institutions, which reflect the greatest glory on our common country. In this labour of love we rejoice to know that the Earl of Shaftesbury has always been conspicuously before the world, and the title he has won in the esteem of every Christian man and woman, can only be defined in the loving influence which is always associated with his name.

We are assembled, my Lord, this day, to lay the foundation-stone of a new building for an enlarged and efficient accommodation of the Field Lane Ragged Schools and Refuges, and we are assured, from the fact of your Lordship coming among us to take the chief part in that ceremony, that your interest in our welfare is unabated. Remember, my Lord, that we have worked harmoniously together. For twenty-two long years we have been associated in this important undertaking—important for the object we had in view, but more important still in the vast number assisted materially and spiritually through its comprehensive agency.

We have been a committee under your Lordship's presidency, but our own action has been independent; and a remarkable feature in this illustration presents itself, that with your Lordship's well-known zeal in the conduct of public business, and your quick perception of any defect in the accuracy of detail, we have never had a word of remonstrance, a shadow of misunderstanding, or the slight resemblance of a discrepancy in our views on the policy and management of this great charity.

We are, therefore, the more grateful to your Lordship for this additional instance of your favour, not simply because we are pleased to see you among us as a personal ally in the Ragged School movement, but because we are sensible of the years of time and anxiety you have devoted to a cause which can give you no recompense in the shape of worldly honours and decorations, although it will secure you a privilege we believe you more highly value in the inexpressible gratitude of thousands, yea, hundreds of thousands, of your poor fellow-creatures.

This Trowel which we offer for your Lordship's acceptance, is but a weak tribute of our appreciation of your service this day, but it may prove a lasting and a pleasing memento of your connection with us; and when, in future ages, your children's children shall look upon it, and, beholding that vast field of labour still perpetuated as the Field Lane Ragged Schools and Refuges—("for the poor shall never cease out of the land")—they may rejoice to know and believe that God had, in one of their ancestors, raised up a special agent to foster as good a work as ever entered into the heart of man to conceive.

We have occasionally given details of the extensive operations carried on by this Institution, and need not dwell further upon them now. Suffice it to say, that the great object the friends have in view is to ameliorate the condition of the poorer classes, morally, socially, and religiously; to teach them self-respect in the walk of life they follow; to educate their children in the knowledge and love of God and man; and to provide for the fatherless, the stranger, the desolate. They desire to catch the spirit of the poet's encouragement—

> Broadcast thy seed!
> Although some portion may be found
> To fall on uncongenial ground,
> Where sand or shard, or stone may stay

Its coming into light of day:
Or when it comes, some pestilent air
May make it droop and wither there.
Be not discouraged; some will find
Congenial soil and gentle wind,
Refreshing dew and ripening shower,
To bring it into beauteous flower;
From flower to fruit, to glad thine eyes
And fill thy soul with sweet surprise.
Do good, and God will help thy deed.
Broadcast thy seed!

THE MAYOR OF LIVERPOOL ON RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE Liverpool Ragged School Union held its Seventeenth Anniversary on May 11 last, at which the Mayor of Liverpool presided, and who, on that occasion, said:—"Having but just returned from Ireland, and having had no time to prepare himself, he was not so well able as other gentlemen would be to go into the details of the working of the Union. But, happily, he felt that the subject of their meeting together was one which needed no logical arguments and no flowers of rhetoric to recommend it to a public audience in Liverpool, for it was one of the noblest and grandest that could occupy the mind of the patriot or the philanthropist. It was neither more nor less than the welfare of their fellow-creatures, a work which was the noblest that man could be engaged in, and being engaged in which, he was doing his first duty in this world—seeking to promote the glory of God. The state of the lower classes of our town was one which had long engrossed seriously the public attention and the thoughts of all those who took an interest in the welfare of their fellow-creatures. It was a subject of very deep and grave interest to those who resided in such a town as this, and they had only to look at the publications which were constantly issuing from their press and to the newspapers of the day to see that the moral, and social, and physical improvement of our lower orders formed one of the grand topics. Unfortunately, it happened that the field of operations for those who were engaged in this great work in Liverpool was a very wide one indeed. He should not be far wrong if he said that at present, at all events, it was without a limit. They had only to look at the state in which a large portion of the mass of our community were living, to see the magnitude of the work which had to be performed. Let them look around wherever they would, and see the misery and degradation which existed amongst a vast portion of our labouring poor. Look at the condition of their homes; look at the habits they had engendered through the want of education; look at the misery and the vice that were everywhere around them, and then say whether the task in which philanthropists in Liverpool were engaged was not Herculean. They talked a great deal about the state of the lower orders of their town, it was a constant subject of discussion in one public place and another; but he very much doubted whether one in a hundred in this town knew anything of the state in which the lower class of this our community lived. The state of squalor, the state

of depravity, the state of absolute wretchedness and want in which hundreds and thousands of their fellow-creatures—he could hardly say lived, but existed—was such that it was almost impossible to realize it, unless a considerable portion of time was spent in visiting those dens of misery and ruin. And there were very few who had the time to do it. It was true that they could scarcely pass through the streets without seeing much of the wretchedness which was to be found amongst them; but the lowest depths of wretchedness did not present themselves to the public gaze. They were to be found in our closed alleys and pestilential courts, and many of these places were so shut off from public view that it was impossible to believe that they existed unless the very entries to them were pointed out. The condition of the mass of our town was like a deadly upas tree, spreading its blighting influences all around, for, unhappily, this state of wretchedness was not confined within a given area. Unfortunately, it was infectious and contagious, and wherever it existed its influences were gradually but surely felt amongst those around, unless some very strong and stringent measures were taken to counteract the evil. Now, there were various ways in which this gigantic evil was to be met. The evil itself was a compound one—it was moral, and social, and physical, and all of these different causes or states acted and reacted upon each other. The difficulty was to grapple with the evil—to know where to begin, and inasmuch as it was almost impossible to find any one system of machinery which should deal with the evil at large, they were obliged to do the best they could, and adopt various kinds of machinery to meet and grapple with—if he might so speak—different branches of the evil. Well, then, their business that evening was with one of those systems of machinery, and that system was education. An old mathematician said that if you would give him a spot upon which to stand he would move the world. He spoke of mechanical powers and mechanical forces, but they had in education a force and a mental power that was equal to any of the mechanical powers in the world. And they had a standing place—the mind of man. They had in education a lever, and with that lever he believed it was possible to move the world. Happily, in our day, there was no necessity to impress upon a public audience the importance and the value of education. It was recognised on all hands throughout the length and breadth of the land. It was recognised by the Government, and it was recognised through every branch of society downwards. They had seen great movements made during the last year or two by the Government to promote the cause of education. They had seen Royal Commissions issued in order to examine the systems of education in operation in the land, and spy out their defects; and they now found a machinery of legislation set on foot in order to remedy those defects and improve those systems. If the value of education as applied to the upper classes was so great, and its importance was so recognised, he made bold to say that the value and importance of education, as applied to the lower classes of our land, was increased in a tenfold degree, because there were many causes at work amongst the higher classes which preserved them from sinking into that low scale in social existence which were not at work when they came to deal with the lower classes. On the contrary, amongst the lower classes there were degrading and debasing influences ever at work, so that whilst on the one hand there were influences at work apart from educa-

tion, strictly so called, to raise and improve, on the other side there were influences at work calculated to lower and degrade. Well, then, the machinery at work in this country for the purpose of spreading education amongst the people of our land was varied, and when they came to the lower end of the scale they had national schools, day schools, Sunday schools in connection with the various religious establishments in the town. All these were at work disseminating useful, and religious, and moral instruction amongst the people. But still there was a grade of the community which these schools, as a rule, failed to touch, and it was with them that they were more immediately concerned that evening. They all knew that the machinery which had been set on foot to try and reach these unfortunate people was generally known under the designation of Ragged Schools. It was not necessary that he should go into the history of ragged schools. They were not met for the purpose of promoting any one school in particular, but were to take a general survey of them, and to recognise the institution whose object was to help them all. And he thought it was universally acknowledged that the good done by these ragged schools amongst the lower classes of the community was incalculable. They had only to look, he thought, at the report of the Union to feel perfectly satisfied on that subject. What could speak more forcibly than the fact that in seventy-six schools designated by the name of 'Ragged,' in Liverpool, they had, during the past year, no fewer than nine thousand children brought under the genial influences of education and religious education? He thought it one of the most important points connected with the history of these ragged schools, dealt with by this Ragged School Union, that it was essential that the instruction which they imparted should be based upon the Word of God. Because many of these children had a certain amount of education imparted to them—education which they could not fail to get from the influences that surrounded—that was an evil education. These children saw misery, they saw crime, they saw sin in all its various phases; from their earliest infancy they became habituated to it. The moral sense became lost in them, and they ceased to recognise, or failed to recognise, in crime crime itself; they knew not what crime was. Therefore the grand object in view in teaching them and in educating them was to let them know what crime was; to let them know that there was a God above, of whom thousands and thousands of them were utterly ignorant; to let them know the laws that he had laid down; to let them know what he approved of and of what he disapproved; and to let them know that certain actions to which they were accustomed, and to which they had been habituated, were not in accordance with his will. And unless they imparted to them a religious education, founded upon those precepts which were to be met with no where but in the Word of God, they failed to give them the only education which could possibly raise them from the state of misery and ruin into which they had been plunged. Now, as he had said before, the object of the Ragged School Union was to encourage these ragged schools. It devoted itself to no school in particular, but sought to visit, to encourage, and to aid all those who were occupied in this good work. And he could speak personally of its usefulness; he could speak personally of the good which it did. It did not require persons to go to it in order to get assistance, but it sought out those that needed assistance. It sent its agent through the

town, who found out schools of which probably no one had the slightest idea —no one knew that they were in existence. He found those schools were being conducted upon right principles, and generously brought to them that aid which that society dispensed. He did not think it was necessary for him to allude in detail to the report which had been read; he felt quite sure that the usefulness of the society would recommend itself to them, and that they would be quite prepared to adopt that report. But he could not close his remarks without adding one word or two upon a subject which, though it might not seem to be part of the subject on which they were immediately engaged that evening, was yet one that was linked with it very closely. He did not think, notwithstanding the value of education, notwithstanding its mighty and potent agency, that they would do the good which they sought to do, or the good which they ought to do, unless they could adopt some means for meeting the physical requirements of the community. They might educate these poor children who came to their ragged schools as they would, they might teach them the Bible, they might teach them the moral laws, they might teach and inculcate into them the precepts of religion; but if these children were to go away from the school and return to scenes of crime, to scenes of pollution, to scenes of destitution, to miserable houses, to want, to squalor, and to filth; to everything that was calculated to depress the physical frame, and prepare the mind for the reception of evil influences—he said that if the child was to go back to all this, half the good that they had done would be inevitably lost. He was glad to think that this subject was now occupying the thoughts and attention of our public men, but at the same time he was free to confess that it was one of the most difficult subjects with which they had to deal; and he would venture to say this—they must not be impatient on the subject, because, however important a matter it was, it was quite impossible that it could be dealt with hastily. There were difficulties in the way of physically improving the condition of the poor—he did not say they were insuperable, but they did present very serious obstacles, and it would take time and careful thought and attention before even these could be overcome. But he was quite satisfied of this, that until they could devise some means of improving the physical condition of the lower classes—he was not now speaking of the higher class of the poor, but of the lowest of the poor—until they could devise some means for them, they would fail to attain anything like the ends they had in view, because the degrading and depressing influences to which they were subject in their homes, in the influences, the evil influences, which surrounded them there was something—it was almost impossible for them to realize that something—that thoroughly unfitted the mind for the reception of what was good—something that prepared it most effectually for the reception of all that was evil. He trusted, however, that as this matter had been taken up it would not be dropped, and that at some no distant period they might see a way made in this town to accomplish an object that was one of the most important that they could possibly have to deal with."

His Worship resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

THE MODE AMERICA DEALS WITH HER DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

At a recent meeting of the Delegates of the International Reformatory Exhibition, held at the rooms of the Reformatory Section of the Social Science Association, Sir Walter Crofton in the chair, the Delegate from America, Rev. C. L. Brace, was called upon to make a statement in regard to a valuable preventive charity in New York—the "Children's Aid Society,"—of which he is the Secretary and one of the founders. As the details may be important to our readers, and may give an impulse to similar movements in London, we quote at some length.

After expressing his deep interest in the objects of the International Exhibition, and in the various plans and suggestions put forward by the representatives of these various charities, Mr. Brace continued:—

"The position of New York is peculiar in regard to its social evils. It is in one respect the sink of all nations. Thither drift in the poor and the outcast from every part of Europe. Large numbers of them refuse to scatter themselves over the country, where employment would be abundant, but settle down in the slums of the city. And though the criminal and absolutely pauper class are not thrown on our shores as they once were, by the European local authorities, and our arrangements are far better for forwarding the emigrants to the rural districts, great numbers of poor Irish and Germans are still left in the city. Their children fall continually into beggary or petty crime; some are cast adrift on the streets, some cannot be supported by their parents, others become suddenly orphan, or are tempted to run away and support themselves by street trades. Through all the causes of every kind which continually throw the children of the poor in a large city upon the world, the offspring of these poor people are left uncared for, ignorant, and exposed to temptation and crime.

"How much of this foreign-born element we have in New York may be judged from the fact that the Irish population of the city is estimated at 120,000, and that we are the *third largest* German city in the world, the Germans numbering over 100,000. Of course, a large proportion of these foreign-born are industrious and moral persons, but very many are of the worst stamp. We felt naturally that such a population growing up, of poor ignorant street children, was most threatening to our future—far more so than the same evil would be here, for obvious reasons. We know that the very existence of a Republic depends on its having no 'dangerous class'—no lower stratum of ignorance, poverty, and vagabondism, such as becomes at last fixed and not to be reached by ordinary moral and social influences. Our problem, accordingly, was to elevate and educate this great class of poor and street children. We opened a preventive movement against these evils, called the 'Children's Aid Society,' whose plan and whose results have been so original and successful, that they may claim attention even here, amid the throng of all other interests which occupy the sympathies and thoughts of the citizens of London.

"The great peculiarity (economically speaking) of the United States is the

unlimited demand for labour. Along with this is associated another, the remarkable *absorbing power*—if I may so call it—of the ruling class. For with us the great forces of the nation—that which govern its councils and rule its foreign policy, as well as shape its domestic character—reside in the class of small rural freeholders—the 'farmers' as by a misnomer we call them."

(From a Member.)—"Not landlords, I believe?" "No: perhaps corresponding to your English yeomen."

"And a class not unlike these in many characteristics; prudent, slow, not taking up a quarrel or an enterprise quickly, but, when once entering on a matter, not easily giving it up, filled with the boundless hopes and ambitions of those Western communities, and characterized throughout by a remarkable dignity and sense of self-respect, and all feeling the American instinct or passion for education. In fact, they are as little like a 'mob' as any class that can be imagined; and a truer knowledge of their character would have saved many mistakes in England as to the policy of the United States the last four years. These people are very ready to receive the poor or the outcast among them (provided he be not vicious), for they have the generosity of a new country; but they inevitably, though unconsciously, shape him to be like unto themselves.

"They live somewhat as the English yeomen did a century ago—the employer and the labourer sit at the same table, go to church together, to tea-parties, 'sleigh-rides,' and all the amusements of the country. It is absolutely necessary for them not only to have labour, but labour which can be made agreeable and suitable to their circumstances. They accordingly prefer to take children whom they can train up to be members of their families, and to work with their own children.

"But should they find a person thus taken not capable of, or disinclined to being refined or elevated, or made one of their class, they inflict on him a punishment which is the severest that can possibly be inflicted on the labouring class—a *social reprobation;* for, of all influences, the strongest in every community—stronger even than that of legislation or institutions—is that of the social tone; and when a member of a class violates its social customs and unwritten ordinances, and meets with its condemnation, he receives his severest punishment. You have only to look at the ban which a set of labourers sometimes places on a single person among them who has broken the customs of the class, to understand this. It is the power of this social tone which explains the rapid manner in which most of the foreign-born in America are 'Americanised.' This 'farming class,' too, is one in very comfortable circumstances. The 'food question' is nothing to them; half-a-dozen extra mouths in the house give them no anxiety; this brings generosity—perhaps compassion—and is not unfavourable to a higher moral condition.

"Taking advantage of these facts and principles, a number of gentlemen in New York, some twelve years since, resolved to form an association which should care for the vagrant, and houseless, and ignorant children, and especially aim at sending them to the rural districts—to good homes among the yeomen. We felt that the great danger of Asylums and Refuges was the desire of keeping the children too long to show the effects of their treatment—and their working out of the line of the natural laws of society.

"We did not believe any extended work could be done for the children of

the poor without working in the channels of natural laws. We proposed to supply the demand for labour. It seemed to us that the best of all asylums for a vagrant or destitute child in America was the farmer's family. We accordingly scattered the notice everywhere among the rural districts, that we could send them these poor children, under proper regulations. There was at once a prompt and general response both from the Eastern and Western States. We could have sent hundreds more than we had collected. The children had in the meantime been gathered into our 'Industrial Schools' (which correspond to your 'Ragged Schools'), and into lodging-houses which we had opened for them.

"Many persons at first feared for the effects of this sudden removal of these poor creatures to the country—that we were getting rid of our scum of crime and misery to pour it over the West. But we reasoned that if a poor child be taken *young enough*, there is always hope of a speedy improvement under family influence—that there are scarcely limits to what Christian influence in a home can do with a young and unfortunate creature; and we had great hopes in the wonderful absorbing and changing influences of those Western communities. The results justified our hopes. We have now been at work for twelve years, and during that time we have sent out to the rural districts over 9,000 children, many of whom would have been burdens on society at home, or would have violated the law and grown up criminals or outcasts but for this instrumentality. Of these comparatively but few have ever turned out badly, and fallen on the charge of the local authorities, or committed criminal offences.

"The great majority have done well; many are grown up to be respectable young men and women, some farmers, some mechanics and tradesmen, or the wives of these people; a few have even entered the professions, and great numbers have shouldered the musket, and some have died for the great cause of Civilization and Freedom in the Western hemisphere. We hear continually from them, and our agents revisit them, and as their places are selected by a committee of citizens of the village where they are placed, they are usually in excellent situations, and are well looked after. The experiment has proved a great success. We are now sending out some 1,200 a year, and one evidence of the favourable working of the movement is that the call from the West is now greater than ever before for these children.

"The *cheapness* of this charity is one of its most remarkable features. On an average, including all expenses of agents, salaries, railroad fares, &c., &c., the average expense of thus settling each child is only some £3 (though this last year somewhat greater); while to have kept any one of these children a year in an asylum, would have cost from £20 to £25; and at the end he would have probably been no better fitted for practical life.

"One grand evidence of the success of this benevolent enterprise is to be found in the remarkable reduction of criminal offences among children in New York during the last nine years, there being a proportional decrease of nearly 40 per cent. in juvenile pick-pockets, of about 33 per cent. of petty thieves, and 40 per cent. of young vagrants, while the whole commitments of minors have only increased from 4,669 in 1855, to 4998 in 1863 (the date of the last returns); though the whole population of the city has increased in that period nearly 50 per cent. Connected with this charity is a large

Lodging-house for news-vending boys, which is partly self-supporting, and well deserves the attention of those interested in benevolent enterprises in England. The trustees are gentlemen well known through the United States for their public spirit, and the charit is supported partly by private contributions, and partly by public grants.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KENSAL NEW TOWN RAGGED SCHOOLS.

It is now upwards of thirteen years since these schools were established in Kensal New Town; and notwithstanding the great difficulties of the work, arising from the distance of the locality from the residences of those who labour in them, and the peculiar class of neglected and ignorant poor to be dealt with, the success has far exceeded the expectations of the founders. An aggregate of many hundreds of children have passed through these schools, who, but for the free education imparted to them, would have grovelled and grown up in vice and ignorance, and hence have spread a moral contagion fearful to contemplate. As it is, counteracting influence for good has been brought to bear upon the children; numerous are the instances in which they have become honest and industrious members of the working class, and many have given hopes of a far higher order of usefulness.

There has been a growing change for the better manifesting itself in the district, more especially since the establishment of the Sunday School, and no one unacquainted with the neighbourhood of Kensal New Town can form any adequate idea of the great moral benefit which has resulted, indirectly as well as directly, upon all the poorer inhabitants.

The number of children attending the schools are, from past years' reports, found to be as follows:—

	On the Books.	Average. Attendance.
Infant Day School	188	135
Girls' Night School	47	36
Boys' ditto	132	35
Sunday Schools	170	90
	537	296

Many boys have joined the navy and army, and others have entered other service. Many of the girls have also entered service, and kept their situations.

A library and a penny bank are in successful operation.

The claims of the schools are peculiar. Situate in a district at the outskirts of the parish of Paddington, they necessarily receive but little local assistance.

The inhabitants of Kensal New Town were formerly occupiers of cottages and huts, on the sites of which the present squares and mansions of the Paddington Estate have been erected. Thus masses of poor have been from time to time driven, by the requirements of the wealthy, to less favoured and more distant localities.

Paddington, in bygone years, was inhabited by the lowest orders. The Sunday was fearfully desecrated, dog-fights, bull-baits, and pugilistic contests took place on the very sites now occupied by the stately mansions overlooking High Park. Thus the advance of the wealthy was like the ponderous but certain progress of the mountain glacier, forcing before it all the stony and earthy particles of the district.

Kensal New Town was for several years the hotbed of infidelity, Mormonism, and ignorance; and latterly, attempted advances have been made by the Roman Catholics.

The funds of the schools are most economically disbursed, and every vigilance is shown on the part of the managers to render the instruction as efficient as possible.

Upon both social and religious grounds, these schools have claims upon the public. If these masses of the poorest of our population be uncared for, ignorance will rapidly engender depravity and vice. It is the lack of the merest elements of education that fills our gaols, our workhouses, our asylums, and our refuges; and when once the child has passed the bending point of tender years, it is almost a matter of impossibility to recover it to the right path, or to ward off the destructive consequences to itself and to society.

Upon higher grounds, no argument is needed to enforce the responsibility of all to assist in the work. To bring an immortal soul to value the truths of revelation and to know God, to bring little children to their Saviour, is a work, if achieved, of higher price than the conquest of a nation, or even the gain of a world; for that soul is of infinite value, though hid in an emaciated body, clad in rags and filth, with a mind stifled with ignorance and immorality.

OLD SCHOLARS' MEETING, MAY 24TH, 1865.

CLARE MARKET Ragged School was one of the first to adopt the plan of this kind of meeting; and finding it a very happy gathering, it is kept up annually on the Queen's birth-day. This auspicious day having been selected, has proved very favourable, for absent old scholars are sure to be reminded of the day, and strive, if possible, to join their friends on the occasion. One lad, with a sun-burnt, cheerful face, had arrived in his ship, a trader between Newcastle and France, just two days before, and was delighted to present himself, with that only necessary qualification, "a good character." After tea and cake had been partaken of by all, the Rev. R. H. Killick, rector of the parish, was obliged to leave for his evening service, and deputed friends to preside. The Rev. Albert Dixon, the present missionary curate of the Clare Market Mission Chapel, addressed the meeting in simple, earnest words, and expressed his pleasure at the sight of so many "old scholars," apparently now prosperous in life. The Rev. J. J. Coxhead, formerly curate and visitor of the school, made another address, and was welcomed as an old friend. He said he felt he was also an "old scholar," for he had learnt much whilst helping and teaching in that school. Mr. Palmer, the Secretary and Superintendent of the school, then read an address, expressing the thanks of all concerned in this Ragged School to

Miss Twining for her care of the school and its affairs from its foundation, in 1847, until the close of last year. This was received and acknowledged as a pleasing token of the affectionate, kind feelings which have always existed between the scholars and their teachers. Miss Twining owned it had in the beginning been a work of great labour and anxiety; but a large portion of gratification and encouragement had been ever mingled with it—and to see such pleasing examples of successful result was an ample reward for all. Several of the "old scholars" repeated pieces in verse and prose, and sang hymns. Those belonging to the Young Men's Improvement Society sang some excellent glees under the guidance of Mr. Palmer; and the evening passed very agreeably to all present. A letter was read from a young woman now in service in a farm in Australia; and mention was made of other "old scholars" removed to distant homes.

THE REFORMATORY EXHIBITION.

THE Exhibition, to which we called attention in our May number, page 112, took the prefix International, and from the arched roof of the Agricultural Hall was suspended the flags of all nations, kindly lent by the Admiralty; and these were not illusory, for at the hall were industrial products from institutions in Canada, Malta, Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Prussia, the Netherlands, Baden, Wurtemberg, Switzerland, Saxony, the United States, France, Italy, Egypt, Syria, &c., &c. One-half of the entire building was occupied by the stalls of these countries, and the other half was filled with those from nearly all the great towns in great Britain and Ireland. Workshops were filled up under the galleries, in which the girls and boys carried on their ordinary daily occupations. Among these were boys cutting rags ready for the paper-mills, others cutting wood by circular saws, driven both by hand and steam power, ready for chopping up into fire-wood bundles. Of these bundles there was built a pyramid in the hall in the form of a trophy. There were girls exhibiting their mastery over all the branches of laundry work, and ready to give practical illustration of what they could do on any body's handkerchief that was left with them for half-an-hour, when it was returned to the owner, a credit to the laundry maids, and without charge for this specimen of work. There were bread-makers, with the portable gas ovens, creditably converting flour into the staff of life. Farther on were tailors and shoemakers, and then came the clever brush-makers; some sorting bristles, others boring holes to pattern in the backs of brushes, and the rest fixing in the tufts with glue and wire. The cabinet-makers made a superior show, which attracted the attention of the Prince of Wales, and from which he purchased a library table for his own use. The mat-makers drew attention to their work, not only by the skill they displayed, but by their juvenility, for they had to stand on a form to work at a table of the ordinary height; and on inquiry, it was found they were from "*The Little Boys' Home* at Tottenham." The printers and paper-bag makers also made a good display of useful industry. The plaster-cast moulders and finishers, too, turned out of hand, in the presence of visitors, some fair specimens, which seemed to find a

ready sale. Then there were the Honiton-lace workers, with their cushions and numerous pins and threads, producing to the unskilled eye the beautiful fabric by a kind of magic. The straw hands, the basket-makers, the sewing-machine workers, and others, made the whole a very busy, a very amusing, and we may add a very instructive scene. To add to the great diversity, there were the rag-collectors, sorters, packers, &c., &c., with their well-known trucks, apparently fully occupied, and displaying a remarkable specimen of odds and ends of what is called rubbish, but by their handy doings are restored to good marketable materials. The stalls were well supplied with clothing for all parts of the body, male and female; material for clothing in cotton, wool, and linen; needlework by hand and machine; embroidery, wool-work, wax-flowers, and lace; toys for in-door and out-door games; books, book-folding and binding; turnery of various kinds, wood-carving, gilding, perforated wood-cutting; tools for different trades, in wood and iron; locks and keys, hinges and general ironmongery; hay, straw, green fodder, and general farm produce; wheelbarrows, cart, and bricks; early vegetables and fruit of many kinds, butter, cheese, and honey; rope mats, carpets, footstools; cabinet work, picture frames and house furniture for every department; tin ware in imitation of china, and many other specimens. The prices of the goods was marked on nearly all that was for sale; and notwithstanding the expenses to which goods from abroad had been put for packing, freightage, &c., the prices of the foreign articles were exceedingly low, 50 per cent. and more, marked the difference between the cost of similar articles in the British and the Foreign countries.. This, as may be supposed, created no small astonishment amongst the managers of our own institutions, and will doubtless cause inquiry as to the economy which enables the continental institutions so successfully to compete with the British. Nor was the price reduced with a view to draw attention and gain notoriety on that occasion, for after the supply on hand was all sold, orders were sought and readily taken to supply any quantities at the same price, plus the expense of duty, &c., if any.

The exhibition was opened on May 19, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, to whom the President, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., read the following address:—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—We, the Committee of the Reformatory and Refuge Union, desire to express the deep sense of gratification with which the presence of your Royal Highness to open this Exhibition is regarded by all its promoters.

"We are surrounded on this occasion by products of industrial work and by trades in actual operation, not gathered here as a brilliant display, but vividly representing a vast and potent effort of Christian energy to shelter and cheer the friendless and the young, to reclaim the fallen, and to help, instruct, and elevate the weak, the ignorant, and the poor. The object of this Exhibition is to call general attention to the necessity for such efforts and their manifest benefit to the world, and to encourage those who in various countries are striving by practical means to help large classes of their fellow-creatures, and so to fulfil a public duty too often neglected. While it is only of late years that such efforts have been systematized by the establishment of special institutions, and have been seconded by enlightened legislation, their good

results have been speedily manifested in an undoubted diminution of juvenile crime, and by many thousands of living examples preserved from evil or restored to honest ways. These good effects are produced chiefly by moral means, by the kind influence which works from heart to heart, and by the education of the young 'in the fear of God and the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.' But the invaluable benefits of industrial training which occupies the hands as well as the mind, and moulds the character of the inmates while it provides for their future livelihood, were soon recognised by the promoters of these institutions, and were attested in public at the former Exhibitions held by this Union, and approved by the presence of your Royal Highness's illustrious father, the late Prince Consort.

"The boys and girls, seen actually at work around us in some thirty different handicrafts, are chiefly from institutions in our busy towns, while there are many country schools and asylums, occupied in gardening or agriculture, which cannot so well exhibit the fruits of their labour now in the spring time of the year.

"The value of industrial training is no less generally acknowledged by the managers of foreign institutions, designated as these are by so many various names. Some are called 'industrial institutions,' others 'colonies,' 'depôts of mendicity,' 'houses of correction,' 'asylums,' 'kinder gartens,' 'talitha cumi,' and by other titles more or less descriptive of the two hundred separate establishments represented here to-day.

"The Committee of the Union believe that your Royal Highness, as patron of our society, which is the centre of three hundred British institutions, will graciously welcome these numerous representatives from abroad, who, responding to our invitation, have brought here from almost every part of Europe, and from Africa and America, the evidences of their interest in this peculiar field of Christian work.

'We earnestly trust that much valuable instruction may thus be naturally imparted, and that the people of all countries may be more deeply interested in efforts thus claiming their attention; and we humbly invoke upon this undertaking the blessing of that gracious Prince of Peace who came 'to seek and to save that which was lost.'"

To this address his Royal Highness replied as follows:—

"YOUR GRACE, YOUR EXCELLENCY, MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—have gladly taken a part in the proceedings of this day, and have complied with your request that I should attend, as the patron of this society, with the greatest satisfaction. The benevolent purpose of this Exhibition cannot fail to be followed by the desired success, and claims the co-operation of every one who has the interests of the industrious poor at heart, and who desire to forward the object which the Reformatory and Refuge Union has in view, viz., industrial with moral training.

"The Committee do me justice in believing that I cordially sympathize in the welcome this society offers to the representatives of foreign countries who have responded to the invitations they have received by their presents and contributions.

"In doing so they have borne testimony, in common with ourselves, to the value of those international exhibitions in promoting the growth of those Christian and kind feelings towards each other which we ought to pray should animate the whole of the nations of the world."

The Old Hundredth Psalm was then sung by the children, after which the Archbishop of Canterbury, kneeling in front of the dais, while the Prince assumed the same devotional attitude by the chair of state, offered up a prayer. The choir followed with the song by Longfellow, "Tell me not, in mournful numbers," set to the music entitled "Gotha," which is one of the best known musical compositions of the late Prince Consort. At the end

of this performance, several gentlemen were presented to the Prince, who then said aloud, from the front of the dais, "I now declare this Exhibition open," the words being the signal for a flourish of trumpets, heard outside the building, and taken up with loud applause, that rang in turn within. The procession was again formed, and the Prince, at its head, accompanied by General Knollys, Colonel Teesdale, and other gentlemen of his suite, made the circuit of the building, and looked at every stand in its turn. So much was there for him to see, that little time could be given to the inspection of particular objects of interest; but he seemed to be much struck with the beautiful embroidery from the British Syrian Industrial School, founded by an English lady—Mrs. Bowen Thompson—after the fearful massacres in 1860. During this procession the organ and band were brought into alternate requisition; the chief musical treat being the "Cujus Animam" from Rossini's "Stabat Mater," which the Commissionnaires played exceedingly well. On the return of the procession to the dais the children sang "God bless the Prince of Wales"—a composition remarkable for the gracefulness of its music; and shortly after his Royal Highness took leave of the committee and company.

The Exhibition continued open till Thursday night, May 25, during which period about 25,000 persons had paid for admission. The entire receipts amounted to very nearly £900, but the expenses were not far short of £2,200. The consequence is that the whole of the guaranteed fund, amounting to £850, will have to be called in, and efforts made to obtain donations to indemnify the Committee for the balance. The Exhibition, excepting in this one point of financial result, was in every respect a grand success, and glad should we have been had there been no exception to mar the completeness of the noble enterprise. The closing ceremony was presided over by Lord Shaftesbury, who presented to different ladies and gentlemen, for the Institutions they represented, a bronze medal as a memento of the Exhibition. Mr. Brace, of New York, Professor Leoni Levi, and Professor Mingaud, of Paris, replied on behalf of the Foreign representatives, and W. Glover, Esq., of Glasgow, and Sir Chas. Fox, on behalf of the British exhibitors.

On the opening day a choir of nearly 1,000 boys and girls, from the Institutions in and near London, sung with remarkably good effect a variety of pieces, and on the following Wednesday they gave a repetition to a large company, the largest present on any day. On different occasions bands were in attendance, among which were some from the Institutions, the Caledonian Asylum, the Corps of Commissionnaires, the Metropolitan Police, &c.

The moral of such an Exhibition, and of the generous and hopeful efforts that led to it, is that in "work" has been found one of the best missionaries of the streets. We failed when we merely relieved the pauper, and pilloried the thief; we succeed when we catch these creatures young, tame them, find out the mislaid brain, and fit it with the work it was meant to perform, and train them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

PRESENTATION TO LORD SHAFTESBURY.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Ragged School Union, Joseph Payne, Esq., and H. R. Williams, Esq., on behalf of the teachers of the London Ragged Schools, presented to Lord Shaftesbury a very beautiful work of art in the form of illuminated writing on vellum, and mounted in suitable

frame. The accompanying woodcut will furnish an idea of the general outline of the presentation, as it appeared in Exeter Hall at the anniversary.

In the top centre border is a portrait of Lord Shaftesbury; in each

corner of the same border are sketches having reference to his Lordship's labours on behalf of the Factory Operatives, the Chimney-Sweeps, the Street Shoe-blacks, and the Ragged School Emigrants. His Lordship's crest, and the motto of his house, "Love—Serve," are skilfully inserted. There are twelve tablets outside the border, in each of which is an extract from Scripture. The following are the extracts beginning with the bottom on the left side, and passing in order to the lowest point on the right hand, viz.:—

"He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he."—*Proverbs* xiv. 21.

"For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."—*Deuteronomy* xv. 11.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."—*Matthew* v. 16.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."—*Proverbs* xix. 17.

"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."—*Matthew* xviii. 14.

"For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."—*Galatians* vi. 7.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."—*Psalms* xli. 1.

"He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour."—*Proverbs* xxi. 21.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it."—*Proverbs* xxii. 6.

"Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."—*Proverbs* xxi. 13.

"For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm."—*Isaiah* xxv. 4.

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink."—*Proverbs* xxv. 21.

The following was the wording of the Address:—

"The Nation holds honoured Lord Ashley, who entered upon a Christian career by exercising those self-denying labours to alleviate the hardships of the toiling masses connected with the din of mills, the depth of mines, and the abodes of squalor, by which he removed discontent from the manufacturing districts, promoted domestic happiness, and obtained the enviable distinction of having won the admiration and love of hundreds of thousands of operatives, and at the same time signally illustrated his devotion to the motto of his house, 'Love—Serve.'

"This great philanthropist, as the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., continues his good work; forlorn outcasts make thankful mention of his name, conscious of having been objects of his care. Ragged Schools owe their success to his energetic support; under his kind and judicious sanction the Shoe Black and Rag Collecting Brigades have eminently prospered; and zealously has the Reformatory movement for Juvenile Offenders been promoted. Preserving an independent political position for prosecuting without trammels, social, moral, and religious reforms, with Model Lodging Houses, Sanitary Improvements, Banks for the Poor, Emigration, and many other good works, the name of Lord Shaftesbury stands in the annals of the peerage without

a parallel; such a life, devoted to the amelioration of the condition of the poor, will ever live in the grateful recollection of every English heart."

Below the Address, and in a separate form, were inscribed the following lines, by Miss C. F. Cunningham:—

"Pity sate sighing over Howard's tomb,
She marked the plaintive voice of misery call,
And sorrowing cried amid the gathering gloom,
'On whom shall this Elijah's mantle fall?'

"Within an English home that cry was heard,
'Awake! awake! and help us ere we die;'
An English breast God's Holy Spirit stirred,
And Virtue smiled: 'Behold, the man is nigh!'

"And prophet-like, with power to teach and bless,
An open heart guiding the open hand,
Sorrow to comfort, evil to redress,
He stood amid the councils of the land.

"Religion's lamp, within his hand upheld,
O'er the dark places of the earth arose;
Forth, at his word, the gushing fountains welled,
And Wisdom's gates to Ignorance unclose.

"He spoke—the sons of want by toil oppressed,
Raised their dim eyes in thanks, for mercy given;
The houseless wand'rer came to him for rest,
And lonely children learned to read of heaven.

"He gave—and misery forgot her fears,
Clutching his ermine in the haunts of woe;
The grasp of poverty, and woman's tears,
Like angels' touches whitened all its snow.

"Happy the land whose men such laurels wear,
Whose true nobility no change can mar,
Whose coronets immortal jewels bear,
Shining with radiance like the morning star.

"Thousands arise and call him blessed now,
And thousands yet, when he his rest has won,
Shall twine a fadeless wreath for Shaftesbury's brow,
Thou faithful servant of thy Lord—well done."

On a silver plate below these lines was inscribed, "Presented to the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., on the 21st anniversary of the Ragged School Union, held in Exeter Hall, May 8, 1865;" and in a ribbon in each of the lower corners, it states the "Presentation is made by the Ragged School Teachers of London, and this Memorial obtained the first prize at the North London Industrial Exhibition."

Notices of Meetings.

KING'S CROSS.

THE twenty-first annual meeting of this school was held on Thursday evening, April 27th, 1865, in the Infant School-room of the Home and Colonial Training Institution, Gray's Inn Road, kindly lent for the occasion. The President, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, took the chair at 7.15 p.m. After singing the 100th Psalm and prayer being offered, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. N. Prentice, read the Report. It appeared that the number of children in average attendance at the Day School was 85, and the number on the books 97, being a slight decrease from last year, and which the Committee attributed to the removal of the poor of the neighbourhood by the railways; during the winter months a good soup dinner was given to the children twice a week. The Clothing Fund was well supported, the total receipts being £11 10s. 4d., and the expenditure £9 18s. 4d.; and 335 garments had been made and sold. The attendance at the Sunday School was 74, and 11 teachers, and at the Girls' Evening School 26. The Children's Treat had taken place at Hornsey, and was attended by 105 children; and the Excursion of the Mothers' Class to the same place had been attended by 41 mothers and fathers and 12 children; the expenses of both of these excursions being met by special contribution. The Mothers' Class was in a very satisfactory state, the average attendance being 32. With regard to finance, the Committee had endeavoured to keep out of debt, but had been unsuccessful. There was a deficit of 35s. out of the very small expenditure of about £85, for which sum about 250 persons were instructed and partly clothed, and the Committee appealed to all present to give the schools more real help. The adoption of the Report was moved by W. H. Miller, Esq., of Lambeth, and seconded by Mr. Curtis. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. Assistant Judge Payne, who read his 2,098th tail-piece; the Rev. A. W. Buzacott, and Thomas Wolfe, Esq., of Shadwell. A cordial vote of thanks to the President for taking the chair, and for his handsome subscription of £5 5s., was moved by the Rev. J. M. Andrews, M.A., seconded by H. Matthews, Esq., and carried unanimously The meeting closed with the benediction.

THE "ONE TUN" RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE eighth anniversary was held on June 14th. The school-room was decorated for the occasion, the gallery being occupied by the children, whose neat and cleanly appearance offered agreeable contrast to the large mass of the surrounding infantile population, while the body of what was once a skittle-alley was filled by a numerous and highly respectable audience. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., presided, who, after prayer, presented money prizes varying from 10s. to 5s., and amounting in the aggregate to £4 10s., and certificates of merit to thirteen boys and girls, who have kept their situations upwards of twelve months to the satisfaction of their employers.

During the eight years which have elapsed since the first meeting held on this spot, which was then the skittle-ground of the old "One Tun" public-house, a gradual change has taken place in those who then were here assembled, and which it is believed must be perceptible to those friends who from year to year have been present at these annual meetings. The small children have grown up, and numbers of them are started in life in various employments, some as domestic servants, others in shops and offices, and others for whom such situations could not be obtained are industriously earning a honest living by work-

ing either with their parents or in the wood-yards, while some are in her Majesty's service in the army and navy; the infants of eight years ago are now girls and boys ready for situations, whom we are anxious for opportunities to place out, while the infant gallery shows no diminution of its numbers, as little ones continually present themselves to fill up the ranks. Among the mothers, members of the Mothers' Meeting, a few have been removed by death, and others have been compelled by the destruction of their homes to seek a shelter in other localities; but it is pleasant still to see some who were present at the first Mothers' Meeting held nine years ago, and who by divine grace have been led to seek and to find salvation through the name of Jesus.

There are in attendance daily 120 girls and infants, and 45 boys—the numbers on the books being 215. The same plan of teaching has been pursued, the acquirement of a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures being the first consideration; indeed, it is to this foundation that we may attribute the honesty so generally exhibited by both girls and boys when placed out in situations and subjected to numerous temptations. On the occasion of the annual examination and the distribution of prizes in December so kindly given annually by the Lady Virginia Sanders, several portions of the Word were repeated in class, and also correctly written from memory on slates by quite the younger children; and their ready, animated answers showed a good knowledge of the subjects under consideration.

Rewards to the amount of £6 were also awarded by J. B. Bell, Esq., for good conduct, regular attendance, and cleanliness of person, with very good results. About 25 boys and 20 girls attend the Night School; but the late-working hours interfere greatly with the attendance, as the children work thirteen or fourteen hours in the wood-yards, and then need rest and sleep to recruit their weary bodies for the next day's toil. Would that all our boys and girls could benefit by the protection accorded by our noble patron's Factory Bill! Of our Sunday Schools, we can only with regret report a falling off both in the attendance of voluntary teachers and, as a matter of necessity, of scholars—not from any disinclination on the part of the children, who clamour eagerly for admission, but that large numbers are reluctantly excluded because there are none to take the classes. At the close of last year, on account of the numbers who thronged the district, it was resolved that a Night School should be commenced for the purpose of gathering in those who were willing to come. The room was at once filled to overflowing, but the staff of teachers was not sufficient to control the undisciplined urchins, disorder prevailed, and the doors were for the future closed against many. It is believed that unless further voluntary aid can be obtained, the Sunday Night School must be discontinued, and the Morning and Afternoon Schools be resumed as formerly. The Band of Hope assembles every Wednesday evening from seven till nine. About 500 boys and girls have enrolled their names as enemies of intemperance, and little soldiers in the cold water army. In several cases, the entire family, father, mother, and children, are total abstainers from alcoholic drinks, and we need not say that their peace and comfort have been increased tenfold, while one great stumbling-block in the way of religion has been removed. 153 children are depositors in the Penny Bank. There are above 74 women belonging to the Mothers' Meeting, which is held every Monday evening, from seven till half-past nine. The meetings are conducted as usual, with opening hymn, short exposition of the Scriptures, and prayer. An interesting book is read during working time, closing with hymn and prayer. During the year 424 yards of flannel, 134 of Holland, 174 of print, 629 of calico, 63 of linsey, 11 pairs of sheets, and 9 shawls have been supplied to the mothers, and chiefly made up by them, fourpence in the shilling being allowed, and all the

thread, needles, tapes, &c., furnished gratuitously. The Working Men's Club and Reading Room in Duck Lane has been in operation four years and a-half with increasing success. Into the details it is not necessary to enter here. The working of the institution and its various societies, which all continue to be managed entirely by the Members' Committee, are by the Divine blessing in a prosperous condition. Any friends who may not yet have visited the building, which is situated very near in the next street, are invited to do so, as its days are numbered, it being required by the Westminster Improvement Commissioners. Mr. G. Blabey has continued his indefatigable labours in the district, and is everywhere well received. During the past six months he has paid nearly two thousand visits to the members of the club and Temperance Society, conversed with more than 550 persons in the different lodging-houses, conducted 26 prayer-meetings, distributed 800 tracts, addressed the children and parents on several occasions, and read the Scriptures and prayed with 108 persons in sickness and bereavement, and ministered consolation to several dying persons. The Committee desire to thank those kind friends who have so willingly contributed to the funds for carrying on the schools, &c.; the Lord's promise has been amply fulfilled, "Ask, and it shall be given you,"—nay more, "Before ye ask I will answer, and while ye are speaking I will hear," and thus the whole amount of £575 for enlarging the Club, besides all necessary for carrying on the "One Tun" Institution, has been received, leaving a small balance in hand.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. James Williams, a member of Duck-lane, Club, Mrs. Bessie Inglis, Rev. Canon Conway, Mr. J. G. Gent, Rev. J. Wright, Mr. C. Stephens, Judge Payne, and Mr. C. Bayless, a blind man.

HINDE'S MEWS.

An interesting and well-attended meeting in connection with the anniversary of the above schools was held on Wednesday evening, June 7th, in Bryanston Hall, Orchard Street, Portman Square The chair was taken by Mr. William Brown. After singing a hymn and prayer, the Chairman called upon Mr. Smith, the Secretary, to read the Report, which gave an interesting account of the history of the school for the past three years. Mr. E. J. Hytche moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Mr. Heard. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. C. Marshall, Rev. Mr. Goucher, Rev. Mr. Davis, and Mr. Chick. Mr. F. Draper moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and also a special resolution recognising the self-denying and disinterested labours of Mr. Miller on behalf of the school for a long series of years, a work which he has only yielded up when a protracted illness has prevented him from carrying on. Mr. Pickett seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. From the Report it appeared that the school embraces Sabbath afternoon and evening religious instruction, ordinary tuition three nights in the week, a flourishing Penny Bank, and a Band of Hope, and the various other interesting operations usually connected with ragged schools, not omiting the usual appendage of a debt. This at the present time is not large, but the liabilities due on the 24th of June will be materially added to, and threaten very seriously to hinder the progress, if not altogether stop the work, in that place. The meeting was closed by the Doxology and prayer.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

ESTABLISHED THE FOR SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

PRESIDENT.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
TREASURER.—R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., Lombard Street, E.C.
HON. SOLICITOR.—E. JENNINGS, Esq.
SECRETARY.—MR. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.
COLLECTOR.—MR. WILLIAM A. BLAKE, 38, South Bank, N.W.
BANKERS.—MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & CO., 54, Lombard Street.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of May to the 20th of June, 1865 :—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. B.	5	0	0
Anonymous	0	2	0
Burchett, J. R., Esq.	2	2	0
Clifton, Miss	1	0	0
Etches, Miss and Mrs.	4	10	0
Evered, Miss	3	0	0
Festing, Mrs.	1	0	0
Fisher, Mrs. Henry	1	10	0
Grenside, The Misses	1	0	0
Guyon, George, Esq.	0	10	0
Helyar, Miss	1	1	0
Henderson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Henvaux, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hewitson, W. C., Esq.	25	0	0
H. M., of B., per Rev. J. M. Barron	2	10	0
Hughes, W. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Locke & Co., Messrs. J. (box)	0	16	6
Minton, Rev. T. W.	1	0	0
Nock, Miss	5	0	0
Pearse, Mr.	1	0	0
Pool, Miss E.	1	0	0
Rayner, Nathaniel, Esq.	10	10	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Saunders, Miss S.	0	10	6
Say, Major H. H.	2	0	0
Small, Mrs. and Miss	0	10	0
Snashall, Mr. and Mrs.	2	2	0
Thomas, W., Esq.	2	2	0
Thomas, Mrs.	1	1	0
Usborne, Miss E.	10	0	0
Whieldon, Rev. E.	1	1	0

Excursion Fund.

Hughes, W. H., Esq.	0	10	6
McAll, Mrs.	2	10	0
Usborne, Miss E.	5	0	0

School Fund.

Cripples' Home.

McAll, Mrs.	2	10	0

New Nichol Street.

J. A. B. V.	2	2	0

Rag Brigade.

Usborne, Miss E.	10	0	0

Wentworth Street.

Abbott, T. P., Esq.	0	5	0

DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS will be thankfully received at the OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY, by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand; by Messrs. HATCHARD & SON, 187, Piccadilly; Messrs. NISBET & Co., 21, Berners Street; by the Bankers, Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & Co., 54, Lombard Street; and by the Collector, Mr. W. A. BLAKE, 38, South Bank, N.W.

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